

There are over 11,000 publicly funded multi-unit housing units in the State of Montana. Of those, 2,319 units are governed by Housing Authorities. 11 of 20 Housing Authorities in Montana have already implemented a smokefree policy, at some level. We have collected information on about 312 facilities, comprising about 10,500 low income housing units, or apartments. Of the facilities we have assessed, about 6300 units, or around 60%, are already smokefree. Successful implementation of smokefree policies in publicly funded multi-unit housing units will be a crucial step in protecting residents from the dangers of second hand smoke.

Statewide surveys also reveal that many vulnerable, low-income Montana citizens, including children and seniors, continue to be exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke in their homes. Thirty percent of Montana housing is renter occupied and 15% of Montana housing stock is multi-unit housing (American Community Survey, 2010). The 2008 Montana Adult Tobacco Survey found that fewer than one-in-five respondents who live in multi-unit housing (approximately 9,000 or 19%) are protected by a smoke free policy set by their landlord. More than one-third (36%) of those respondents have children 17 years or younger living with them. Of Montana multi-unit renters who do not have a smoke free policy in their building or complex, the majority (85%) are in favor of their landlords implementing a smoke free policy.

Project Aims	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved protection for multi-unit housing residents from secondhand smoke, improved knowledge about the dangers of secondhand smoke in the multi-unit housing.
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide support to multi-unit housing owners and managers who are passing, expanding or improving compliance of smoke free policies. • Educate tenants about the dangers of secondhand smoke in multi-unit housing with a public education campaign, which was released in the fall of 2012. • Pass smokefree policy incentives for recipients of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit at the statewide Level. • Encourage landlords to go smokefree, and provide them the guidance and resources to do so.
Current Stakeholders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Montana Tobacco Use Prevention Program • Montana Department of Commerce-Housing Division • Housing Partners-Housing and Urban Development, several Housing Authorities, developers and individual owners and managers of multi-unit housing. • American Cancer Society and the American Lung Association • Montana Landlord's Association • Missoula Office of Planning and Grants
Measuring Success	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenants report protection by policy. Source: Adult Tobacco Survey • Assessment and reporting from tobacco prevention specialists on policies according to facility.
Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentive for smokefree policies in the 2013 and 2014 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Action Plan • Campus wide smokefree policies passed for the Billings Housing Authority and Miles City Housing Authority • Signage produced and distributed to owners and managers working with tobacco prevention specialists to strengthen compliance to smokefree policies

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Next Steps

- Continue work on the qualified action plan process
- Choose owners and managers for education on the benefits of smokefree policies
- Begin work with the Missoula entitlement community consolidated plan through the Office of Planning and Grants
- Connect with the Montana Landlord's Association to provide information about smokefree policies to private apartment managers
- Update database on multi-housing facilities in Montana



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